

XXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX  
371 Carter Road  
Thomaston, Conn.

Washington  
6/22

September 14, 1959.

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Dear Connie:

We arrived home safely Saturday, and had a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

We had quite a discussion on way home about the problem of our plane fare, and of course, you must realize we were more than disappointed to hear what you had to say about repayment of same. We have come to the conclusion that we have not been treated in a fair manner.

We went in good faith and accepted your word in good faith, and borrowed additional money to finance this trip, all with the understanding that same would be reimbursed. Now to have returned and find we have to make payments for everything ourselves certainly puts a light of a different color on the trip, and we do not like it at all.

You approached us on the possibility of taking such a trip, and after talking it over we decided it would be interesting and we would be happy to help whatever organization you were associated with. You confirmed several times to go ahead and make all our own arrangements and not to worry about the fare, as it would definitely be repaid to us, so, we had no other thoughts in our mind. You also stated that it might be possible to obtain some extra expenses, but this was not definite.

We cannot understand the change in agreement, and this is not our method of doing business. When a responsible person gives his honest word, it is taken as such, and the party with whom you made this agreement should be approached. Perhaps if we talked with whomever you made the agreement we might convince them that this trip was very worthwhile and they should reconsider.

Actually we went according to your instructions to observe Minsk and take pictures of all Minsk areas, and to try to get to our relative's village. We feel we did the best any one could, and had many embarrassing events along with the deal. You know there is nothing of interest for a tourist to see in Riga or Minsk, but we had to go along there to obtain information from you. Even if they say more tourist had gone to Russia this year, there were

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DATE 2007

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a very small percentage that went to Minsk. The average tourist just stays over night in Minsk. Another item is that the average tourist does not speak with the natives and we feel we tried to talk wherever we were with the natives to hear their thoughts.

We thought you had the authority to advise us the way you did, and I'm sure you can understand our feelings in this matter.

We shall expect to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

C  
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P  
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248975  
KONSTANTY MERLAK  
197 ROSELING STREET  
BROOKLYN 11, NEW YORK  
OVERSEAS 7-0000

New York, September 17, 1959

Dear Kay & Mike:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, and I was glad to hear that you enjoyed the last Saturday afternoon.

You are right about every word you have written and I do not wonder about the disappointment you have had experienced.

Notwithstanding that I am bound by the oath I will try to explain and may understand my own experience in this case, which really is embarrassing to me most of all concerned.

I acted on instruction of not any organization but of the Uncle Sam, and I trusted him as you did trust me, and here is the mistake, because I should have had asked before the trip for an advance money, and in turn if you did asked for advance from me we would discover earlier what lies behind the matter, and the trip would be cancelled with incurring of minor expenses.

After having presented your bills, I got telephone call that the project was cancelled, I almost dismayed, but it was too late to advise you to cancell the trip, because you have already been on the way to Europe, but this was not the end, I went further, on August 3rd, I travelled to Washington with the purpose to get money I was assured for reimbursement of plane fare - and there happened a terrible thing - a responsible man for this matter man lost his job, however, it was of no help, I did not get the money.

My role was only to go between, and I did not dare to question about money before and I never dared not to believe, and now, I really do not know what to do?

This is the ~~the~~ truth, and I can prove it, if you wish and give more details orally but not in written.

At the present still I am trying to settle this matter as favourable as possible, but really I can not assure anything specific.

The lecture at the American Committee I am pushing forward, and hope you will hear about it very soon, in order that you may get a couple of hundreds for your time.

Regarding the Saturday's lecture I would like to contribute to cover the expenses and time lost from my own pocket if I am sure you will not refuse to accept.

My heart is really broken, because I had a faith in people to whom I will never trust any more.

Hope to hear from you, and best wishes and regards to all of you.

Sincerely,